



CHURCH of the HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

October 3, 2021 27th Sunday Ordinary Time/ Respect Life Month

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am—10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am—9 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm



“All **LIFE** has inestimable value, even the **weakest** and most **vulnerable**, the **sick**, the **old**, the **unborn** and the **poor** are masterpieces of God’s creation.”

Pope Francis

Respect Life

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints’ Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

PRO LIFE EVENT

Please come and join us on Life Chain **Sunday, October 3, 2021**, for our annual Life Chain from 12 Noon until 2:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood of Delaware, located at 805 S. Governors Avenue, Dover. The Life Chain event is meant to be introspective, peaceful, and prayerful. Contact Francis Urick, 302.233.4684.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Join us on **Monday, October 4, at 6 pm** in the back field by the Early Learning Center Building to bless the animals. All animals types are welcome.



COLUMBUS DAY

The School and Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, October 11, in honor of Columbus Day.

Mass will take place at 9 am only on October 11.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

September 19, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$27,047	\$26,000	\$1,047
YTD	\$301,064	\$309,300	(\$8,236)
Needs	\$1,796	\$1,480	\$316

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending September 19, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,354
2nd	\$348

For Holy Cross, you can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We appreciate your generosity to the church.

Dear Parishioners,

In last week's Pastor's Column, I began the topic of identifying Catholic and Church related items that connect with the numbers 1-10. I had this thought as a result of an event held at Immaculate Conception called "Nonsense and Fun" which was kind of a cross between stand-up comedy and bingo. As each number was called a Catholic or Church-related item related to the number would be noted (e.g., 1-14, there are 14 Stations of the Cross) and then for each number I would also have a related joke. The whole event was a lot of fun.

Before we get back to the continuation of this article (looking at all things Catholic for numbers 6-10, having look at numbers 1-5 in the last column), let me give you a flavor for the type of information and humor used at that event. So, for the number 60, I noted that Isaac (the son of Abraham) was 60 years old when he and his wife gave birth to Jacob and Esau. Then I shared this joke (note, most jokes were church related, this one wasn't — this is just a plain old joke that I enjoy with as it features a soupçon of O'Henry):

A couple had been married for 35 years, the pair was also celebrating their 60th birthdays. During the celebration, a fairy godmother appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple all those years, she would give them each one wish. The wife said she wanted to travel around the world. The fairy godmother waved her magic wand and BOOM! The wife had the tickets in her hand. Then it was the husband's turn. He paused for a moment, then said boldly, "Well, I'd like to have a wife 30 years younger than I am." The fairy godmother picked up her wand and BOOM! He was now 90.

With that registering mildly on the laugh meter, I now continue "counting Catholic" with numbers 6-10.

Six. Six is how many millions of dollars the US Government spent on Astronaut Steve Austin (played by actor Lee Majors) to make him run faster, on the "Six Million Dollar

Man." I guess that is what might be called a "major" improvement. Here are some Catholic sixes to note:

- In John's Gospel, six is the number of jars of water that Jesus turned into wine.
- In Genesis, there were six days of creation, hence man is to labor six days a week, but rest on the Sabbath.
- Three sixes ("666") are the mark of the beast in Revelation.
- There are six Holy Days of Obligation in the United States (Immaculate Conception; Christmas; Mary, Mother of God; Ascension; Assumption; and All Saints Day)

Seven. Seven is considered the perfect number in our tradition... good things generally come in seven, but not always, as you will see in this list:

- There are seven Sacraments (Baptism, Penance, Confirmation, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders)
- There are seven weeks in the Easter Season
- The book of Revelation identifies seven Churches: Ephesus, Smyrna (not the home of the Smyrna Diner, but a city in what is now Turkey), Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia (not the home of Cheesesteaks, but another city in Turkey) and Laodicea.
- The beast in the Book of Revelation has seven heads.
- There were seven earthquakes in the Bible (Exodus 19:18; 1 Kings 19:11; Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 27:54; Matthew 28:2-4; Acts 16:26; and Revelations 6:12)
- There are seven Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Simiel, Orifiel and Zachariel (the latter three names vary within Judeo-Christian tradition).
- There are Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit,

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green/Susan Cutrona	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC STAFF

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

MAILING ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

Holy Cross School
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

At the beginning of this summer many of us thought that the Covid-19 pandemic was winding down. Now we're not so sure. How have Covid restrictions been hard on your marriage? Are there any ways that new practices have helped?

PARENTING POINTERS

October is Respect Life month. Are there people that you find difficult to respect? (people who are lazy or mean, people who are selfish...) Yes, even these are worthy of human respect. Talk to your children about giving respect – even to people they don't like.

SHARE IN THE SPIRIT COLLECTION

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the diocesan Share in the Spirit tuition assistance collection last week.

For those of you who have not yet participated, you may still contribute to the Share in the Spirit collection for tuition assistance. Please drop your envelope in the collection basket or parish office or, visit the Share in the Spirit website at www.cdown.org/sharespirit.html and click on "Ways to Give." This important collection supports the mission and ministry of our Catholic schools by assisting parents who seek a Catholic education for their children but who struggle to afford the full cost of tuition. Your support is gratefully appreciated.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (NCYC) -

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL TEENS -

This year's NCYC will be done virtually - and a wonderful way for everyone to participate. We exchange our 12 hour bus ride for the comfort of our home and Holy Cross Parish Hall. Each participant is asked to register through the Diocese by October 15. Please visit cdowcym.org/events/detail/ncyc-ablaze1 for more information and to register. We will gather as a group on Saturday, November 20 to conclude our weekend. More details to follow -

READINGS FOR OCTOBER 10 28TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: WISDOM 7:7-11

Prayer leads to wisdom, which is far more important than all created things.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 4:12-13

No created thing is hidden from God.

GOSPEL: MARK 10:17-30

Those who leave everything to follow Jesus will receive far more than they gave up in the first place.

HOLY ROSARY RALLY (HC)

Our Lady's message from Fatima was an URGENT one. She requested that the Rosary be prayed daily for world peace and for the conversion of sinners. Our Lady said, "I am the Lady of the Rosary and I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for our sons."



Unite with us to pray the Holy rosary for world peace and for all military men and women fighting the good fight. The Rosary is our weapon as St. Padre Pio proclaimed praying the Rosary has been victorious in wining many battles against the enemy.

Rally to take place:

When: October 16 at 9 am

Where: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in front of the church

Any question, please call Carol O'Donnell at 302-359-4340. If you need a rosary, we can provide you with on. Everybody come. When we pray, Our Lady prays with us.

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will meet from now on in the office building every month on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

FOOTPRINTS MINISTRY

The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington has announced a new ministry called Footprints, designed to assist families by providing support and resources after the loss of their unborn child (ren), whether it was very recent or many years ago. Footprints will launch with a special Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Mass on October 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Grieving families are invited to gather together, celebrate Mass, and surround themselves with family and friends' loving support to remember their little one(s). A light reception will follow the Mass. Reservations are required by September 30, 2021. Please register online at <https://cdow.coursestorm.com/course/pregnancy-and-infant-loss-remembrance-day-mass>.

Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing Eileen Gaus, Coordinator, at egaus@cdow.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

OCTOBER

4 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Janet Kelly

5 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Corp. Carlos Gilorozco

6 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Ken White

7 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Irene Sadusky
ICC 6 pm For the People

8 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Helen & Jan Olechnowicz

9 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Marion Barany
HC 5 pm Virginia Hulka

10 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Catherine Anna Rund Berkeridge
ICC 8:30 am Valarie Adam
HC 9:30 am Anthony DeVigili
ICC 11 am Margaret "Peggy" O'Meara
HC 11:30 am Paola Garza
ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION

DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The area churches in Dover come together to do a food drive at the local Redners stores that benefits two pantries in our community. Holy Cross Catholic Church and First Baptist have food pantries that serve needy families in the Dover Community. The food drive will take place on Friday November 5 and Saturday November 6 and will run from 10-6. As a patron enters the store, they will be given a slip of paper which lists non-perishable foods that are used by the two pantries. While they are shopping they may choose to purchase food to be donated to our drive.

We need volunteers to man the doors of Redners on this weekend of November 5 and November 6. If you would be willing to help us out, please call Kathy Lessard at 302-698-1091 or 302-270-5875

MASS MINISTERS

OCT. 9-10

HOLY CROSS

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker M. Macleish D. Novack V. Pearl J. Salamone

LECTORS J. Davis

7:30 AM R. Fritzsche R. O'Neill A. Wyllie M. Thompson C. Brown

LECTORS R. Pritchett

9:30 AM K. Kelly J. McIlvain L. Olmsted V. Pepper G. Richard

LECTORS J. Coffield

1:00 PM M. Ramirez B. Guzman, M. Richard E. Pastoriza C. Cortes E. Cortex

LECTORS M. Reyna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM None assigned at this time

LECTORS B. Thompson

11:00 AM None assigned at this time

LECTORS S. Tucker

1:00 PM A. Velezquez D. Cui

LECTORS A. Perez

Attention Holy Cross liturgical ministers: If you have not responded to our request to send in updated information on which ministry you are involved with, your name, contact information, and your ministry you are involved with, please do so now so we can get you on our next schedule. If we don't hear from you, we cannot place you on the schedule. Contact M. Dornberger at 674-5787, ext 116, or email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you and/or your family.

- SUNDAY 7 am, 10 am, 12pm, 1 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm
- MONDAY 2 pm, 3 pm
- TUESDAY
- WEDNESDAY 6 am, 12 pm
- THURSDAY 2 pm
- FRIDAY 8 am, 11 am,
- SATURDAY 5 am, 8 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 7 pm

DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you have not picked up your copy yet, please stop by the office to get your copy. It is best to please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it ready for you to pick up.

CAR SHOW AT ICC

Immaculate Conception will host a car show on its grounds on October 16, 2021 from 10 am to 4 pm. Entry fee is \$10/car.

There will be prizes give out for various categories. Food will be available for purchase.

Music will be provided by "The Godfather of New England Doo-Wop". He will be playing original vinyl recordings from the 50's and early 60's. The same tunes you heard on your radio.

Contact Bill Thompson at 302-492-8005 or Woody Gravenor at 302-779-2168 for more information.

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANIA

Foro Cristino con el padre Oscar. A las 6:00 – 8:00 de la tarde el ELC. Volveremos a empezar con Symbolon: Explicación de la fe católica: conocimiento de la fe. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más. Si está interesado, comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman para Inscribirse. El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 1

Octubre es el mes del santo Rosario. Por favor haga el compromiso de rezar el santo Rosario diariamente con su familia. Como de costumbre se les pide que se anote en el Nártex de la iglesia con eso confirma que está dispuesta a rezar el Rosario todos los días. El día 16 de Octubre, se rezara el Rosario como comunidad parroquial alrededor de la estatua de Nuestra Sra. Del Carmen que está ubicada en el estacionamiento delantero. Les daremos más información más adelante.

Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por favor llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

Por favor de APAGAR o silenciar los celulares y todo aparato electrónico antes de entrar al Templo, que es un lugar sagrado donde se va a tener un encuentro con el Señor nuestro Dios.

La virgen peregrina ya está visitando casas, si usted desea tener la virgen en su casa por una semana y rezar el santo Rosario con su familia con la imagen de la virgen peregrina anótese con la Sra. Marta Espinosa. Se le entregara a imagen el domingo al final de la misa y usted la devuelve el próximo domingo en la misa para e entregara la siguiente familia.

Lavado de Autos. El sábado 23 de octubre tendremos un lavado de autos por \$20 exterior e interior, de 9:00 am a 3:00 pm en nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción, en Marydel. Tendremos ventas de comida y refresco. Si alguien quiere cooperar por favor hable con la Sra. Arline

Dosman. Es para cubrir parte de la deuda de los autobuses que llevaron los peregrinos a la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción en Washington, D.C.

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA (ICC)

Las clases comenzaron el pasado domingo 19 a las 9:40. Si todavía no ha inscrito a su hijo, ya perdió una semana de clase.

Te Necesitamos: Catequistas para este año! Necesitamos catequista para el quinto grado y asistentes a catequistas. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Alicia. Si lo está pensado esto puede ser su llamado.

Sacramentos: Primera Reconciliación comienza el martes 5 de octubre. Su hijo tiene que estar inscrito para las clases de preparación.

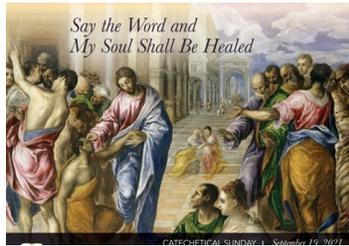
Preparacion para la Confirmación domingo, 10 de octubre a las 2:30 de la tarde en el salón.

Symbolon Explicación de la fe católica: conocimiento de la fe. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 1

En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC. Si esta interesado hable con la Sra. Arline.

En ingles en la parroquia deLa Inmaculada Concepcion con la Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)



Welcome back to all our Religious Education students!

Regular Class – October 10th at 3:30pm Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.

7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.

No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.

MASKS ARE MANDATORY.

Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm

Grades K-1 -5:20pm

Grades 2- 5:25pm

Grades 3-4 5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis) Next Class – October 10th 10:30am-12:30pm in the Matthew/Mark Room

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION – Led by Deacon Bob Bishop Robert Barron’s “The Creed” Beginning October 5th on Tuesdays at either 9am or 7pm for a total of six weeks in the Matthew/Mark room of the Holy Cross Parish Office.

In this six week series “Bishop Robert Barron guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed, a fourth-century statement of faith that has profoundly influenced Christian spirituality, theology, and liturgy in both the East and West.” To register for the series, please email Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122. When emailing, please state whether you are registering for the am or pm class. Please register by September 29th.

Next Confirmation Classes will be October 10 for Sunday class and October 13 for Wednesday class.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (IC)

Classes began on Sunday, September 19th at 9:40am. Your child must be registered to attend. No registration will be taken on the first day of class.

WE NEED YOU: Catechists needed for next year! Needed for Kindergarten, and 5th grade, and assistants. Please inquire with Mrs. Poppiti as soon as possible. If you are wondering, then this may be your calling.

Sacraments: 1st Reconciliation Prep begins on October 5th. Your child must be registered in religious education classes and registered for Preparation classes.

Youth Confirmation Prep: First session on Sunday, October 10th at 2:30-5pm in the hall

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained- Knowing the Faith We are offering a video/ study book series once again, for 10 Sessions that extend to approximately a 12-week time frame. You can still sign up if you are interested, please contact Alicia Poppiti to register. The cost is \$25 for Part 1 and registration is necessary in order to have your participant guide. Presented in the Hall at ICC on Monday evenings; it began on September 27th.

Here is a brief description, “Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained is a stunning new video series that systematically presents the BIG picture of the Catholic Faith. Filmed on location in Rome, the Holy Land, Calcutta, and in the Augustine Institute studios in Denver, dozens of nationally known teachers clearly present the beauty and brilliance of Catholicism. This compelling series contains two parts including ten episodes each. In Part 1 we journey through the core teachings of the Catholic Church traced out in the Creed and Catechism with the goal of knowing the Faith. In Part 2, we focus on our encounter with God in the sacraments and the moral life so that we can be fully living the Faith.”

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM in the ICC Parish Hall.

Knitters & crocheters Welcome.

Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7).

The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.

My schedule does not often permit the leisure time for pleasure reading. Quite frankly, it took me two years to complete my last book selection. Thankfully, my comprehension skills are still pretty sharp, when I was able to pick the book up again, I was able to pretty much piece together the events of the pages read thus far. Since my book reading time is severely limited, I will often choose to pick up a magazine instead. I prefer the ones with lots of pretty pictures of homes, gardens, flowers and recipes. When purchasing a magazine I have a tendency to look at the back page first. Most publishers reserve that space for a special theme or focus of some sort. My favorite magazine back page is found in Southern Living. This is where I will find an amusing article and caricature which corresponds to the topic of the monthly essay. The author of these articles often offers a humorous perspective on prized personal memories of living in the south; or perhaps he might expound upon the rich southern culture. Now, I used to enjoy the annual publication of the Farmer's Almanac back in the day when they would publish their winter forecast that might allude to a forecasted snow storm or two. But now that the accumulation falling snowflakes (I love snow) has all but disappeared from winter forecasts in the First State, I don't find quite the same pleasure in the almanac. The warming of the globe has caused me great personal disappointment.

I recall some years back having a subscription for a monthly publication entitled The Liguorian Magazine. This magazine is published by the priests of the Redemptorist Order. I attended a parish where the priests were of the Redemptorist Order and on one Sunday every year one of the Redemptorists would visit my parish to seek out donations for foreign missions. The Redemptorists are a congregation of priests and brothers, who since 1732 have followed in Jesus' footsteps, preaching the Word and serving the most abandoned. Every month, as soon as I retrieved my monthly magazine from the mailbox, I would turn to the back because there was always a beautiful rosary offered for my consideration. Always reasonably priced I soon amassed quite the collection. My favorite was composed of crystal-like beads shaped in such a way as to fit perfectly in the "pincher" (That's what we called them in Pre-K) fingers. There was a light coral cast to the side of the beads. The gold crucifix was beautifully detailed and was a perfect complement for the coral.

Nowadays, my favorite rosary of composed of multi-colored wooden beads. I have had this

particular rosary for many years, and I believe it was a gift from one of the Pre-K classes. It was handmade and the wooden beads are colored with different shades of markers. I like this rosary best of all because I have dedicated each color for a special intention. I keep my rosary in the car for easy access. My prayer seems more meaningful if I know each Hail Mary is intended for a special need. Generally, the bead color and its intention align with the favorite or symbolic color of that person or collective group so it's easy to remember who I am praying for. I prefer to pray slowly, so the prayer takes most of my commute.

On my rosary, the green beads are for HCS, our faculty and staff. I pray for the success of our school and for its needs. Also on my rosary are blue beads. Each blue bead is for the school children; their well-being and success, and growth in their faith formation. The yellow, brown, and red beads are for different members of my family, while I have reserved the plain wooden beads for myself. With each new day I pray for the guidance, vision, and wisdom as I continue to serve as administrator of HCS; I am both honored and humbled to do so. I also pray for personal strength, patience, and fortitude on the more difficult of days. Last year I made a promise to a parent to reserve the orange beads for her child. This particular bead didn't have a designated intention at that point and her child was facing an imminent health crisis. Recently, I have added a second child to the orange bead. This child has been diagnosed with a terminal disease. I, along with others will pray for this child and the family in the challenging, trying days that lie before them. I ask our parishioners to join us in prayer for this very special intention. Also, there are black beads on my rosary. I reserve them for global needs such as victims of natural disasters, for the quelling of wildfires, and those overwhelmed by the times during the pandemic. And finally, the white beads are for those unbeknownst to me who are in need of prayer, because aren't we all??

I have always found great comfort in the rosary knowing and believing that our Blessed Mother intercedes for us. A priest once remarked in his homily that it might seem that we are always nagging our Blessed Mother to tug upon the sleeve of her son to hear our prayers. I don't think she minds, do you?



I conclude as I began..... The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions.

The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.

- There are seven Spiritual Works of Mercy, and seven Corporal Works of Mercy.
- There are seven deadly sins
- There are the Seven Sorrows of Mary.
- And in Italian custom, before Christmas, people celebrate a “Seven Fishes Dinner” (of which I am sad to note, Swedish Fish do not count). The seven fishes at that different represent the Seven Sacraments.

Eight: The Beatles tried their hand at doing the miraculous when they sang “Ain’t got nothing but love, babe, eight-days-a-week.” They had a great song, but weak calendar skills, obviously. Our Catholic eights are far sounder:

- There are eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11).
- Eight people were spared from death in the great flood by way of Noah’s Ark (see 1 Peter 3:20)
- Christ rose from the dead on the eighth day (the day after the Jewish Sabbath); this is expressed symbolically in the octagonal shape of many (but not all) baptismal fonts
- There are eight days in an Octave -- e.g., the Octave of Christmas (Dec. 25-Jan. 1), the Octave of Easter (Easter Sunday – the Second Sunday of Easter).
- Mary’s Immaculate Conception in the womb of St. Ann was on December 8 and her birth was on September 8.

Nine. Of note, “nine” (spelt “nein”) in German expresses “no,” but “nine” in Latin expresses “ninth.” So, before I get dressed up to the nines in word games, here are our Catholic nines:

- There are nine ways to be an accessory to another person’s sin: by counsel, by command, by consent, by concealment, by defense of the evil done, by partaking, by provocation, by silence, or by praise.
- There are nine choirs of Angels: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers and Principalities.
- There are nine days of prayer in a Novena.

Ten. Okay, here’s my bad “10” joke. A man tells how he met his wife at a costume party. She had come to the party with a girl who was her roommate. They came dressed cleverly as the number ten. He said that the first of the two girls he saw was the roommate, she was dressed as a large “0”. Then he saw this other girl – his wife-to-be -- and he said, “She’s the one.” What about our Catholic “tens” – well, I’ll keep it simple:

- There are Ten Commandments.
- There are ten Hail Marys prayed on each decade of the Rosary

As the old joke goes, there are three types of people in the world, those who can count and those who can't. In Catholicism, we can count many items related to numbers. However, when all is said and done, all of these numbers put to one side, it is Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, on whom we can always count.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor